

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1(Original) A wound dressing material comprising a charcoal cloth wherein the charcoal is coated with a substantially water-insoluble polymer.

Claim 2 (Original) A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substantially water-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of chitosan, insoluble alginates, insoluble cellulose derivatives, insoluble starch derivatives, albumin, guar gum, pectins, gelatins, hyaluronates, hemicellulose, chitin, agar, xanthan, starch, amylase, amylopectin, alternan, gellan, mutan, dextran, pullulan, fructan, locust bean gum, carrageenan, glycogen, glycosaminoglycans and collagen.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A The wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein the dry weight ratio of the water insoluble polymer to the charcoal is from about 0.1 to about 1.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A The wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, wherein the water insoluble polymer is present as a thin film coating o the charcoal.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A The wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 4, wherein the material has a water absorbency of at least about 0.5g/g.

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Original) A wound dressing according to claim 5 which is sterile, and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 8 (Original) A method of making a wound dressing material comprising the steps of impregnating a charcoal cloth with a dispersion of a polymer or polymer precursor in a solvent, followed by drying the charcoal cloth to leave a coating of water-insoluble polymer on the charcoal.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8, wherein the dispersion is a solution of the polymer or polymer precursor in water, and the method further comprises a step of treating the polymer or polymer precursor after said step of impregnating to render it insoluble in water.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein the step of drying comprises freeze-drying.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)